

In re Patent Application of:
COOPER
Serial No: 10/775,962
Filing Date: February 10, 2004

REMARKS

In view of the arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention is directed to a communications system. As recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, the system includes a plurality of communications devices connected together in a network and having a plurality of user accounts associated therewith. At least one of the communications devices processes requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application associated therewith. The system further includes an application server for accessing the user accounts via the HTTP client application, and an HTTP server for interfacing the HTTP client application with the application server. The HTTP server and the HTTP client application format requests to be communicated therebetween in an HTTP format via the Internet, and each provides additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests recognizable by the other for authenticating the application server and the HTTP client application to one another. In addition, the HTTP client application accepts work jobs from the application server by sending a GET request to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with the HTTP server. Moreover, the client application responds to the work jobs from the application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP

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server.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a similar communications system, and independent Claim 11 is directed to a related method. These claims have been amended similarly to Claim 1 to recite that the HTTP client application accepts work jobs from the application server by sending a GET request to a first URL associated with the HTTP server, and responds to the work jobs from the application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The present application includes independent Claims 1, 7, and 11 which stand rejected over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,687 to Binding et al. As noted in the Response filed September 1, 2005 (the "Response"), the Binding et al. patent is directed to a method for exchanging supplemental information fields between a client 300 and a server 305'. See FIG. 5 of Binding et al. In particular, the client 300 initially sends an HTTP GET request 310 for a particular Web page to the server 305' at a first URL "xyz." See col. 7, lines 18-33 of Binding et al. The server 305' determines that supplemental information (e.g., a password) is required from the client 300, and thus sends a response to the client in the form of a REDIRECT message 312 which includes a URL "abc" and a request header identifying the supplemental information that the server is requesting from the client. See col. 8, lines 12-13 and col. 9, lines 1-5. The client 300

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responds to the REDIRECT message 312 by sending a subsequent GET request 324 to the redirected URL which includes the reply header and the supplemental information requested by the server. See col. 9, lines 29-34.

In the Response to Arguments section of the final Office Action, the Examiner states that Binding et al. teaches a client accepting "work jobs" by sending a GET request to a server at xyz because the server sends back a REDIRECT to the client along with a request for supplemental information. Moreover, the Examiner contends that the Binding et al. client somehow responds to this "work job" from the server by sending results therefor (i.e., the supplemental information) to a second URL (i.e., abc) different from the first URL. However, in making this contention the Examiner omits the fact that the client sends the supplemental information to the second URL using a second GET request, and he then goes on to make the following statement on page 3 of the final Office Action:

"Such system of Binding has the structural and functionality limitations of performing the use of second GET request to the server using a first URL and providing a response from the server by sending a POST request with the result for the above mentioned request using a URL different from the first URL." (Emphasis added).

The Examiner therefore acknowledges that it is the server that is providing job results to the client using a POST request, and not the client. In stark contrast, the above-noted independent claims recite that the HTTP client application sends

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a POST request with results for the work job(s) to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server. As noted above and as clearly stated in the passage at col. 9, lines 29-34 (and elsewhere) in Binding et al., the client provides the supplemental information to the second URL using a GET request, as client applications typically do when requesting job results (i.e., an Internet page) from a server. Accordingly, Binding et al. fails to teach all of the recitations of the independent claims, and the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) cannot stand for this reason alone.

Even so, the Examiner goes on to make the following statement on page 3 of the final Office Action:

"Moreover, Applicant kindly submitted [referring to page 12, lines 7-8 of the Response] that the POST request is well known in the computer network environment to use by a server to provide job results back to a client. Thus, Applicant's assertion with respect to the abovementioned limitation is moot." (Emphasis added).

For convenience of reference, the sentence on page 12, lines 5-8 of the Response that the Examiner cites states that "the [Binding et al.] client 300 uses an HTTP GET request to provide the supplemental information to the server 305", NOT a POST request as is commonly used by a server for providing job results back to a client."

As Applicant's quoted statement clearly notes, and as the Examiner acknowledges, a POST request is the traditional mechanism by which a server responds with job results to a GET

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request from a client application. This is the conventional practice in the art. Therefore, for a client application to use a GET request to accept work jobs that would ordinarily be requested of a server, and to then perform the job and provide job results therefor to a server using a POST request is contrary to the conventional practice. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been taught away from selectively modifying Binding et al. to produce the claimed invention as the Examiner proposes.

To the contrary, such a selective combination would change the principle of operation of Binding et al., as this would require sending a POST request from the client to the second URL instead of a second GET request as Binding et al. specifically requires. The client would therefore no longer be requesting the information it was originally seeking in the first GET request to the first URL. As a result, the Binding et al. system would be rendered unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of providing supplemental information to the server "to complete a client's request [to a server] for content stored at a particular location." Abstract of Binding et al.

Accordingly, the prior art simply fails to teach or fairly suggest all of the elements recited in independent Claims 1, 7, and 11, which are therefore patentable. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents on this 30 day of January, 2006.

E JH: